

Commercial Rezoning Approved

Rezoning of large sections in South Torrance for commercial purposes was approved without a hitch at a last and final hearing before the City Council Tuesday night.

A number of rough spots which had caused residents to circulate petitions containing approximately 200 signatures had already been ironed out. Spokesmen for the petitioners were present Tuesday night to inform the Council that the whole plan now met with their approval.

The plan which was approved had been worked out by George Powell, advisor to the Planning Commission, which body held two hearings on the matter and then sent the plans to the Council, recommending approval. Zoned for commercial purposes. (Continued on Page 11)

COUNCIL BRIEFS

NEVER SAY DIE: Earl P. Miller, a Torrance resident, who has fought a losing battle all the way through the Superior Court trying to get the City Council's decision granting a variance to the Halverson mortuary reversed, took his fight all the way up to the Supreme Court of California this week. The city granted a variance to the mortuary to be located at Cravens avenue and Engracia, opposite Torrance's only other mortuary.

CIVIC CENTER SITE: Santa Fe Land company has agreed to sell its 28.4 acres intended for a civic center site at Torrance boulevard and Maple for the originally quoted price a year ago of \$6500 per acre. The company stipulated that the city repay the company \$1700 in taxes paid on the property since the city first showed interest in it a year ago and also pay for the moving of the pipe line, according to City Manager George Stevens. The Council approved this offer.

SCHOOL SIGNALS: The Council decided to force the School Board's hand in the purchase of traffic signals upon a motion by Councilman Albert Isen. The School Board has refused to bear part of the cost of school traffic signals on grounds that it is not legally obligated to do so unless the Board itself requests the signals. The Council voted to refer all petitions and petitions for signals to the School Board from (Continued on Page 8)

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS BARK

Are you a six-week-old puppy looking for a home? If so, call your mistress immediately and have her place a classified ad in the Torrance Press.

That's what Mrs. C. Surber of West 255th street, Lomita, did when she had a tan female Chihuahua for sale. This was her ad:

FOR SALE: Chihuahua puppy for sale, female, 6 weeks old. Tan. DA. 6-2965

Thursday morning both the puppy and Mrs. Surber were happy because the little Chihuahua had found a home.

Even if you're not a chihuahua looking for a home, give us a call and let us help you solve your problem with an inexpensive, sure-fire Torrance Press classified ad.—FA. 8-2345.

Mayor Says:

'ROLLING HILLS ANNEXATION BIGGEST ISSUE TO HIT TORRANCE'

EDITORIAL

LET'S WAIT FOR THE FACTS

Torrance is presently faced with one of the greatest issues in its history—the possible annexation of 6500 acres of land in the Rolling Hills area.

We can understand the grave concern over this matter on the part of the City Council and the Board of Education. We share that concern.

However, we feel that the Board of Education and Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, acted hastily by announcing recently, and again this week, that they were opposed to this annexation.

Their move was hardly in keeping with the best principles of education which call for the reservation of judgment until all the facts are known.

At this moment the Torrance Press is not willing to state whether it is for or against annexation. We want to know the facts first.

The developers have only this week completed an exhaustive study of the facts and figures as they see them and will discuss these with the City Council and the Board of Education. It remains to be seen whether these calculations will compare favorably or unfavorably with those of the city and the schools.

We believe, with Robert L. Plomert, Jr., of the Industries Tax Committee, that the School Board and all residents of Torrance should wait until all the facts are known before passing judgment on this momentous issue.

A hasty word can sway an issue beyond all redemption. Let us be cautious—but not careless.

Loranger Re-elected To Top Chamber Post

Paul D. Loranger, owner of Paul's Chevrolet at 1640 Cabrillo, has been unanimously elected president of the Chamber of Commerce by the Board of Directors at the regular monthly meeting held January 10, 1955 at the Chamber office.



PAUL LORANGER re-elected

Loranger was re-elected for a second term and others elected to serve with him were Dr. Gerald Eastham, first vice-president; Dave Sowle, National Supply, second vice-president; William A. Zoeller, CPA treasurer, and Dale Isenberg, Exec. Sec.

Directors

Recent by-law change increasing the Chamber Directorate from 15 to 21 include the election of Mervin Schwab, city (Continued on Page 11)

IT PAID TO BREAK THE LAW

A law breaker actually came out ahead and the city was left footing the bill when Judge John Shidler last Wednesday fined Grant Construction company \$50 for burning lumber illegally at 179th street and Crenshaw boulevard November 5.

Grant Construction company headed by Tony Parravano, had been given a 10-day license to burn lumber, provided the lumber would not be burned near the highway. The November 5 burning violated this provision, making it necessary for the Torrance Fire Department to spend three hours at the scene of the fire while Torrance police had to throw a road blockade due to the excessive smoke.

Grant Construction company pleaded guilty to the charge of illegally burning lumber and was given a lecture and fine of \$50 by Judge Shidler.

Officials have pointed out that the case cost the city over \$200. Had the company had to remove the lumber involved to a legal dump site it would actually have cost the company about \$150.

Pacific Hills Group Elects Schoonover

Pacific Hills Homeowners' association elected their new board members for 1955 Monday night, with the Board of Directors electing the group's officers in turn.

Elected to head the association for the coming year were Alvin Schoonover, president; George Davies, vice-president; Mrs. Blaine Staker, secretary; and J. B. John, treasurer.

Board
Newly elected board members include: Mrs. Blaine Staker, Alvin Schoonover, J. B. John, Lyle Johnson, George Davies, John Chiarenza, Joe Reed, Gerald Alford, Ralph Farber, Mrs. J. P. Jones, George Palm, and E. J. Robinson, outgoing president who automatically became a member of the board.

As part of the evening's activities (Continued on Page 8)

GAVEL CHANGES HANDS

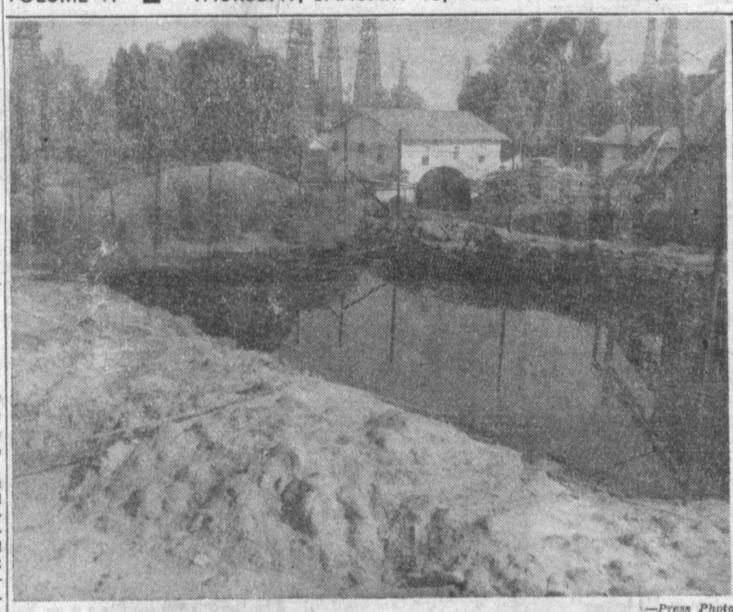


PACIFIC HILLS Homeowners' association held its election of officers Monday night. Chosen by the Board of Directors were (seated) Alvin Schoonover, president; George Davies,

vice-president; (standing — right) J. B. John, treasurer. Handing over the gavel is outgoing president E. J. Robinson. Also elected was Mrs. Blaine Staker, secretary.

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SPILLING OVER . . . Residents at 238th st. west of Eshelman are up in arms over a sump whose contents are spilling onto their property. The oil is creeping toward one home and there

is the danger of small sump holes forming which are a hazard to animals and children. A truck has been observed filling the sump regularly at night.

STATE PUTS SQUEEZE ON OIL SUMPS HERE

While the State is in its final round to crack down on undesirable oil and industrial waste disposal methods in the Torrance area, another oil sump violation was brought to light this week.

The latest complaint came from a group of homeowners in the vicinity of 238th st. west of Eshelman. Residents charge that a nearby sump is spilling over and the oil is running all over the property. Some of it is heading in the direction of a home.

Also, small puddles of oil are forming which will eventually form treacherous sump holes endangering both children and animals.

Truck Seen
A truck has been observed regularly coming to the sump and dumping the oily waste products. The dumping is done frequently at night, residents charge. While one family was away, dumpers have tried to cover up the puddles of oil by spreading fertilizer over them.

Protests to officials at the City Hall have been to no avail, stated Mrs. Glenn Adams of 2065 W. 238th st., spokesman for the group.

"It looks as if city officials just haven't got a law which they can enforce," Mrs. Adams stated.

State To Act
In the meantime it was learned that independent oil men and local oil industries (Continued on Page 8)

Plan Executive Committee To Help With Jobs For Juniors

Two groups which have been working independently on a Jobs for Juniors program announced that they had joined forces this week and will work together to set up an executive committee.

Fred Boren, local director of the California Department of Employment and Mrs. Herma Tillim, director of the Torrance Personnel agency, this week announced that they are contacting industrialists labor representatives, mechanics and lay-

men in order to set up an executive committee.

Community Problem
Mrs. Tillim has been handling a job placement bureau for juniors on a non-profit basis as part of the Torrance Coordinating Council's youth program. A similar bureau is available at the State agency.

The job needs have risen greatly, however, and an attempt is being made to arouse full community response.

A luncheon meeting of the executive committee is planned for sometime next week.

The need for setting up a Jobs for Juniors program became acute since Torrance High school has gone on half-day sessions. Many youngsters are looking for part-time work. Local individuals close to the juvenile scene fear the danger of increased juvenile delinquency here if no way is found for youngsters to spend their idle time constructively.

Approaches City
Mrs. Tillim, recently approached the City Council asking that the city join the Jobs for Juniors program by providing (Continued on Page 8)

Guard Company Opens Here

The Torrance National Guard armory, to be completed by June, is opening a temporary office for recruitment purposes starting today at the Civil Defense building, 1754 Torrance Blvd., it was announced. Staffing the local office five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. is M/Sgt. John L. Garcia. The office may be reached by calling FA. 8-6055. Men between the ages of 17 and 35 years are eligible to join the local Bridge company.

Realtors To Install Tomorrow

Installation of officers will highlight the meeting of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors tomorrow night, January 14, with Perry Connett being installed president of the group. The dinner meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the American Legion hall, Torrance. Other officers to be installed include: James Decker, vice-president; W. E. Bowen, secretary-treasurer; board of directors, William Tolson, Fred Hansen, and Gretchen Earle. W. E. Bowen will act as master of ceremonies with entertainment furnished by the Title Insurance and Trust company of Los Angeles. Dinner will be served by the American Legion auxiliary.

Civil Service Ordinance In Dispute

Differences of opinion continued this week when the City Council passed the new "streamlined" civil service ordinance by a 3-2 vote, while Civil Service employees on the whole still felt in the dark as to what the new ordinance "would do" to them.

The ordinance will come up again for its second hearing, January 25 at which time individuals and groups may be heard on the matter.

Councilmen were split on the legality of passing such an ordinance. Councilmen Willys Blount, Albert Isen, and Mervin Schwab voted for the new ordinance, so that the city could go ahead with plans for obtaining a new appeals board. At present the city does not have one, since the Civil Service board was stripped of that power.

Mayor Nick Draie and Councilman Victor Benstead opposed the ordinance because they claim that the original Civil Service ordinance was adopted by a vote of the people and a new ordinance should again be submitted to the people's vote.

The city attorney's office indicated that two separate ordinances are involved. Ordinance 249, dealing with fire and police department personnel, was the only one voted on by the people. This ordinance is only being amended at present, which is permissible by the charter.

Another ordinance, No. 326, deals with all other city personnel. This ordinance was originally adopted by the City Council and may therefore be repealed and "streamlined" by that body, it was stated.

MEYER TO HEAD KIWANIS

E. K. (Snuffy) Meyer was installed president of the Lomita Kiwanis club at a dinner-dance installation held at the Palos Verdes country club Saturday, January 8.

Meyer succeeded Glenn Keith in the presidential post. Other newly installed officers were: Leonard Loy, first vice-president; George Tait, second vice-president; board members: Joe Bader, Tim McCormick, Don Bowker, Tom Hincley, Earl Barnett, Marvin Norford, and Dale Dandoy.

The first four board members are newly elected to two-year terms. The other three members also served last year.

New Light Shed on Hot Issue

One of the biggest issues ever to be decided in the city of Torrance is now before the City Council. It is the proposed annexation of 6513 uninhabited acres in the Rolling Hills area to the city of Torrance. Torrance residents should give this matter a great deal of thought.

So declared Mayor Nick Draie this week in an interview with the Torrance Press.

Vast Area

One thing that nobody has disagreed on so far is that the proposed area to be annexed is huge. The present city of Torrance is 19 square miles in size. The area proposed for annexation is itself 10 square miles in size, making it over half the size of present-day Torrance. The area compares roughly in size with Santa Monica.

Eventually it will have a population of 44,000 people, which is equivalent to what Torrance's population was at its special census about a year ago.

What Will It Cost?

One of the most important problems which the City Council, Board of Education, and Great Lakes Carbon, owners of the property, are trying to hash out now is how much tax revenue the city and schools will receive from the area and how much it will actually cost the city and the schools to service the area in return.

In other words, can the area be self-supporting or will it cost the city money and be a burden on the tax payers?

So far a lot of figures have been bandied around with no one in agreement yet on which figures to use. Some figures have not been made available yet. Others are just being released this week.

If Torrance were to annex the area now it would collect \$150,000 the first year and only spend \$100,000 on services, thus actually showing a profit, according to Ivar Hanson of the Rancho Palos Verdes corporation.

The vertical assessed valuation of the whole area will be \$65,000,000 and bring \$730,000 (Continued on Page 11)

SHOPPING CENTER

Government OK On Triangle Expected

Surface rights to the 35-acre airport triangle proposed for shopping center purposes were granted to the city Monday in an oral agreement between Elmo J. Buttle, chief of the surplus property branch of the General Services Administration in Region 9 and James M. Hall, city attorney.

Now all the city is waiting for is word from the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. for easing of other governmental restrictions.

An answer is expected by January 17, Attorney Hall stated. Clearing of these restrictions will give the go-ahead to commercial development of the land.

190th-Western Pile-Up



SLIPPED . . . Three cars joined forces when one driver's foot slipped from the brake onto the accelerator in front of Harvey Machine Co. on Western ave. Monday afternoon. Roy C. McFarland, 46, of Los Angeles, driver of the third car, tried to stop when he saw the line of cars in front of him. His shoe being

muddy, McFarland's foot slipped off the brake onto the accelerator causing his car to lurch into car No. 2 driven by Joseph G. Houston, 23, of Venice, whose car in turn rammed one driven by Darrell R. Snyder, 34, of Redondo Beach, according to police. No one was injured.